

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03371 01 OF 02 021650Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /106 W
-----090016 021816Z /53

R 021640Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8502
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 03371

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, UR, SY
SUBJECT: MFA BRIEFING ON ASAD VISIT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 3149, (B) MOSCOW 2636

SUMMARY: MFA BRIEFING ON ASAD VISIT IS REMARKABLY THIN,
BUT DOES TRACK WITH MORE DETAILED BRIEFING EMBASSY HAD
EARLIER OBTAINED FROM SYRIANS. MFA SOURCE LEAVES IMPRES-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03371 01 OF 02 021650Z

SION THAT TWO SIDES HAD NOT PRESSED THEIR DIFFERENCES
WITH EACH OTHER DURING THIS ROUND OF TALKS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MARCH 1 DISCUSSION ON RESULTS OF ASAD VISIT TO
MOSCOW, FIRST SECRETARY VASILIIY IVANOVICH KOLOTUSHA, NEAR
EASTERN COUNTRIES DEPT (SYRIA-LEBANON), EVADED DETAILS AND
MADE GENERAL REMARKS WHICH MORE OR LESS TRACKED WITH BRIEF-

ING WHICH SYRIAN DCM HAD GIVEN US ON FEB. 27 (REF A).

2. KOLOTUSHA CONFIRMED THAT SOVIET ECONOMIC DELEGATION WOULD LEAVE FOR DAMASCUS IN NEXT FEW DAYS FOR MEETING OF SOVIET-SYRIAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION, BUT HE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON FUTURE MILITARY VISITS IN CONJUNCTION WITH COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIS ON MILITARY COOPERATION.

3. KOLOTUSHA TRIED VERY HARD TO AVOID ANY ADMISSION THAT SERIOUS DIFFERENCES HAD ARISEN DURING TALKS (IN WHICH HE HAD PARTICIPATED AS NOTETAKER). HE DID LEAVE GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT NEITHER SIDE HAD PRESSED THE OTHER ON THE ISSUES UPON WHICH THEY DO DIFFER, I.E., MEPC, THE HORN, AND LEBANON. HE DENIED THAT SOVIET SIDE HAD RAISED ISSUE OF SYRIAN-IRAQI DIFFERENCES AND SAID THAT IRAQI ROLE IN PRESENT FORMATION OF STAND-FAST FRONT HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED.

4. CONCURRING WITH EMBOFF'S OBSERVATION THAT SYRIAN INITIATED COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE ON SOVIET PARTICIPATION AT ALL STAGES OF M.E. PEACE SETTLEMENT WAS GRATIFYING TO SOVIETS AND COULD BE SEEN AS DIRECT RESULT OF SADAT'S RECENT MOVES, HE READILY ADMITTED THAT MOSCOW INTERPRETED THIS LANGUAGE TO REFER TO ITS PARTICIPATION IN COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND NOT TO ITS PARTICIPATION IN INTER-ARAB
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03371 01 OF 02 021650Z

EFFORTS TO OPPOSE SADAT. KOLOTUSHA DENIED ANY DIFFERENT APPROACH BETWEEN SOVIET AND SYRIAN SIDES TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF ANTI-EGYPTIAN-ANTI-ISRAELI FRONT (REF B, PARA 2 AND 3). HE DID NOT DEMUR FROM EMBOFF'S ADDITION OF TERM, "ANTI-U.S." FRONT, BASED ON INTERPRETATION OF COMMUNIQUE PHRASE, "AGAINST IMPERIALISM".

5. THROUGHOUT, KOLOTUSHA TOOK PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT TALKS HAD CONCENTRATED ON NEED TO (A) CONDEMN "FRUITLESS" SEPARATE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS AND USE OF GENEVA AS COVER FOR APPROVING SEPARATE DEALS AND (B) FOSTER POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS AMONG ALL PARTIES ON COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT IN GENEVA FRAMEWORK. HE SAID THAT SYRIANS SUPPORTED LATTER IDEA PROVIDED PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION COULD BE RESOLVED. HE DENIED THAT ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE COULD BE READ INTO BREZHNEV'S USE OF VAGUE TERM "CHANNEL OF GENEVA CONFERENCE" IN HIS SPEECH TO ASAD (REF B, PARA 2).

6. ASKED WHAT NEXT STEPS MIGHT BE, AND IN PARTICULAR IF ANY SOVIET OR SOVIET-SUPPORTED ARAB INITIATIVE MIGHT BE EXPECTED IN LIGHT OF SOVIET FEELING THAT SADAT'S

EFFORTS HAD RUN THEIR COURSE, KOLOTUSHA SEEMED GENUINELY PERPLEXED AND AFTER SOME THOUGHT COULD ONLY RESPOND WITH A SOVIET VERSION OF WHAT WAS THE STATUS QUO ON EVE OF SADAT'S TRIP TO JERUSALEM. HE INDICATED NO AWARENESS OF SOVIET STOCK TAKING WITH INTENT OF DEVELOPING NEW POLICY INITIATIVES.

7. COMMENT: KOLOTUSHA MAY LOOSEN UP IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS (AS DID HIS PREDECESSOR, A.I. ZOTOV, RECENTLY ASSIGNED TO WASHINGTON), BUT THIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WAS MOST UNPRODUCTIVE. WE PASS IT ALONG FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH AND URGE OUR READERS NOT TO ACCEPT KOLOTUSHA'S

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03371 02 OF 02 021652Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /106 W
-----090048 021816Z /53

R 021640Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8503
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 03371

COMMENTS AT FACE VALUE.

8. KOLOTUSHA SAID HE HAD SERVED IN EGYPT AND, MOST

RECENTLY, IN LEBANON, AN EXPERIENCE WHICH HE DESCRIBED
AS THE MOST INTERESTING IN HIS LIFE. HE RETURNED FROM
BEIRUT ONLY THREE MONTHS AGO. HE SPEAKS FRENCH AND
ARABIC, BUT NO ENGLISH. MATLOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW03371
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780096-0106
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803115/aaaadtkf.tel
Line Count: 173
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 45da3dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 3149, 78 MOSCOW 2636
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3141863
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MFA BRIEFING ON ASAD VISIT
TAGS: PEPR, UR, SY, (AL-ASSAD, HAFIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/45da3dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014